DC
BATMAN
AUG.
NO. 85
10¢
WOULD You LIKE TO WEAR BATMAN'S FAMED COSTUME?
DON'T BE SO SURE -- BECAUSE IT BECOMES A KILLER'S TARGET WHEN OTHERS WEAR...
"The COSTUME of DOOM!"

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
C'MON, YOU LITTLE PUNK— DANCE! HO, HO, HO!
WOW! BATMAN-- WHATTA HAUL YOU MADE TODAY! YOU'RE SURE THE NEW JOKER OF GOTHAM CITY!
EVERYBODY KNOWS BATMAN, FAMED LAWMAN OF GOTHAM CITY! AND HIS ARCH-RIVAL, THE JOKER, THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE! SO WE WON'T TELL YOU MUCH MORE THAN THIS: IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY TRADE PLACES-- WHEN BATMAN TAKES OVER THE JOKER'S CRIMINAL DOMAIN WHILE THE CRIME-CLOWN STARTS UPHOLDING LAW AND ORDER!! FOR ONE OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL STORIES YOU EVER READ, START RIGHT NOW ON—
"BATMAN— CLOWN OF CRIME!"
BOB KANE

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ONE DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, PROWL THROUGH GOTHAM CITY ON A ROUTINE PATROL...

ROBIN--LOOK! THE JOKER'S CAR! WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING IN THERE?

WE'D BETTER GO SEE! EVEN THOUGH THE JOKER HAS SERVED OUT HIS PRISON TERM AND IS NOW A FREE MAN, HE BEARS WATCHING!

SOON AFTER...

WE'LL SPLIT UP HERE! SHOULD YOU LOCATE THE JOKER, CONTACT ME VIA YOUR BELT RADIO!

MEANWHILE...

THERE'S A FORTUNE IN RADIUM SOMEWHERE IN THIS BUILDING! OUR JOB TODAY IS TO LOCATE IT!

ALL AT ONCE...

AH, THERE YOU ARE, JOKER! IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH YOU!

HA-HA! SORRY, BATMAN--I'M NOT IN A VERY TALKATIVE MOOD TODAY! COME ON, MEN--LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT SO INTENT ON THE CHASE ARE BATMAN AND THE JOKER, THEY FAIL TO REALIZE THEY'VE ENTERED A RESTRICTED AREA, THE EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY OF DR. TOM RAYBURN...

LOOK OUT, YOU FOOLS! OHHH--TOO LATE! TOO LATE!

AND AS BATMAN PURSUES THE INFAMOUS CLOWN OF CRIME...

HA-HA! THIS IS LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS! NOTHING GIVES ME AS MUCH FUN AS PLAYING CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH BATMAN!

WARNING DO NOT ENTER

WHEN THE BLINDING FLASH SUBSIDES, TWO INERT FORMS LIE ON THE FLOOR! AND WHEN ROBIN APPEARS ON THE SCENE...
IS HE... IS HE... DEAD???
WHY--WHY--NO! AMAZING! NO HUMAN BEINGS WERE EVER SUBJECTED TO THE SMASHING FORCE OF THE EPSILON RAYS BEFORE! THEY WERE CONSIDERED DEADLY! AND YET--THESE MEN LIVE!
IT'S A MODERN MIRACLE! THESE MEN WERE BARELY STUNNED! THEY'LL BE STIRRING IN A MOMENT! IMAGINE IT! HIT BY THE EPSILON RAYS, AND NOTHING HAPPENED TO EITHER OF THEM!
BUT IS THE LEARNED DR. RAYBURN CORRECT? IS EVERYTHING THE SAME AS BEFORE? WATCH--AS BATMAN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...
BATMAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN I--OWWW! YOU HIT ME!
SHUT UP, YOU PUNK KID! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
OUCH! MY BEARD! YOU SET IT ON FIRE!
HA-HA! THAT'LL TEACH YOU! YOU TURNED THE HEAT ON ME, SO I RETURN THE COMPLIMENT!
HO HO HO
HE USED THE BATARANG TO SMASH THE RAY MACHINE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BATMAN???
HA-HA! THAT TAKES CARE OF YOUR INFERNAL GADGET! HA-HA-HA!
SMACK
DACK
HA HA HA HO HO HA HA HA HO HA HA HO HO HO
THAT LAUGH--THAT AWFUL LAUGH! IT'S THE LAUGH OF THE JOKER HIMSELF!

AND BEFORE THE BADLY-SHAKEN ROBIN CAN RECOVER FROM HIS SHOCK, ANOTHER SURPRISE GREETS HIM!
ROBIN! ROBIN--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AM I DREAMING??? THE JOKER NEVER SHOWED SUCH CONCERN FOR ME BEFORE!
WELL, NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK! LET'S GET TO HEADQUARTERS AND FILE A REPORT, ROBIN!
IT'S CRAZY! BATMAN ACTS LIKE THE JOKER--AND THE JOKER ACTS LIKE BATMAN!
DOCTOR, CAN I SEE YOU ALONE FOR A MOMENT?
AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD IN THE PRIVACY OF DR. RAYBURN'S OFFICE...
A STRANGE CASE--BUT THEN, WE WERE DEALING WITH STRANGE AND POWERFUL FORCES! YES--IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT A TRANSFER OF PERSONALITIES HAS TAKEN PLACE--ALL EVIDENCE POINTS TO IT!
THAT MEANS THAT THE BATMAN BRAIN, THE BATMAN SOUL, AND THE BATMAN PERSONALITY ARE CLOAKED WITHIN THE BODY OF THE JOKER! AND THE REVERSE IS EQUALLY TRUE--THE BODY OF BATMAN ACTUALLY CONTAINS THE MAN WE KNOW AS THE JOKER!
BUT THIS IS TERRIBLE! HOW CAN WE HELP BATMAN BECOME HIS NORMAL SELF AGAIN?
THE SCIENTIST TALKS--AND ROBIN LISTENS. LATER, WHEN THE WHOLE INCREDIBLE STORY HAS BEEN TOLD TO COMMISSIONER GORDON...
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT A FIX! AND YOU SAY OUR ONLY CHANCE IS THAT ANOTHER BLAST OF THE EPSILON RAY WILL RE-TRANSFER THEIR PERSONALITIES?
YES! BUT DR. RAYBURN MUST FIRST REPAIR HIS EQUIPMENT--AND I MUST SECURE FOR HIM A SUPPLY OF ISOTOPES BY SCOURING ATOMIC LABS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY! I'M FLYING TO DENVER TONIGHT!
GO AHEAD, ROBIN--AND GOOD LUCK! MEANWHILE, WE MUST KEEP THIS NEWS SECRET AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, LEST IT ENCOURAGE THE UNDERWORLD AND PANIC THE PUBLIC!
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THAT NIGHT, IN A DINGY UNDERWORLD BAR...
HEY, LOOK! BATMAN'S BECOME ONE OF THE BOYS! HE'S PASSING OUT FREE SMOKES!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS-- I'M CELEBRATING! CIGARS ON ME!
THANKS, BATMAN! YOU'RE OKAY, PAL!
THEN...
HO-HO-HO-HO! WHAT A BUNCH OF SUCKERS!
SAY--WHAT KIND OF A GAG IS THIS? THAT'S NOT BATMAN-- THAT'S THE JOKER, WEARIN' A BATMAN UNIFORM FOR LAUGHS, OR SOMETHIN'?
YOU'RE WRONG, KID--THE JOKER NEVER HAD THEM MUSCLES! THAT'S BATMAN, ALL RIGHT-- AND I THINK HE'S OFF HIS ROCKER-- AND NOW'S THE TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!
HO HO
HA HA
HO
HA
HEY, BATMAN--YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS, HAVIN' A GOOD TIME! LET'S HAVE SOME REAL FUN--LET'S SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE BEHIND THAT MASK!!!
HA! IF THEY ONLY KNEW I'M REALLY THE JOKER INSIDE BATMAN'S BODY!
HMM--HE'S GIVEN ME AN IDEA! EVERY CROOK IN THE WORLD IS JUST ITCHING TO SEE MY FACE! WHY NOT MAKE 'EM PAY FOR IT--AND PAY PLENTY? ENOUGH FOR ME TO RETIRE ON!
ALL RIGHT, MY FRIEND--TELL YOU WHAT: PASS THE WORD ALONG THE UNDERWORLD--TELL THE BOYS TO GET UP THE DOUGH! FOR ONE MILLION BUCKS--CASH ON THE LINE--I'LL TAKE OFF THIS MASK--AND THAT'S A PROMISE--A BATMAN PROMISE! HA-HA-HA-HA!
WOW! DIDJA HEAR THAT??? BATMAN NEVER GOES BACK ON HIS WORD! C'MON--- LET'S START THE COLLECTION!
NEXT MORNING, NEWSPAPERS BLAZE WITH HEADLINES THAT SHOCK THE WORLD...
GOTHAM GAZETTE
Night ★ WALL STREET PRICES
BATMAN SELLS OUT!
LAWMAN OFFERS TO REVEAL IDENTITY FOR $1,000,000.00!
SECRET INVESTIGATION BY THIS NEWSPAPER UNCOVERS SAD BUT TRUE FACT THAT BATMAN'S SHAMEFUL OFFER IS GENUINE
BATMAN HOBNOBS WITH CROOKS HE ONCE DETESTED! OBSERVERS FEAR LAWMAN HAS GONE MAD!
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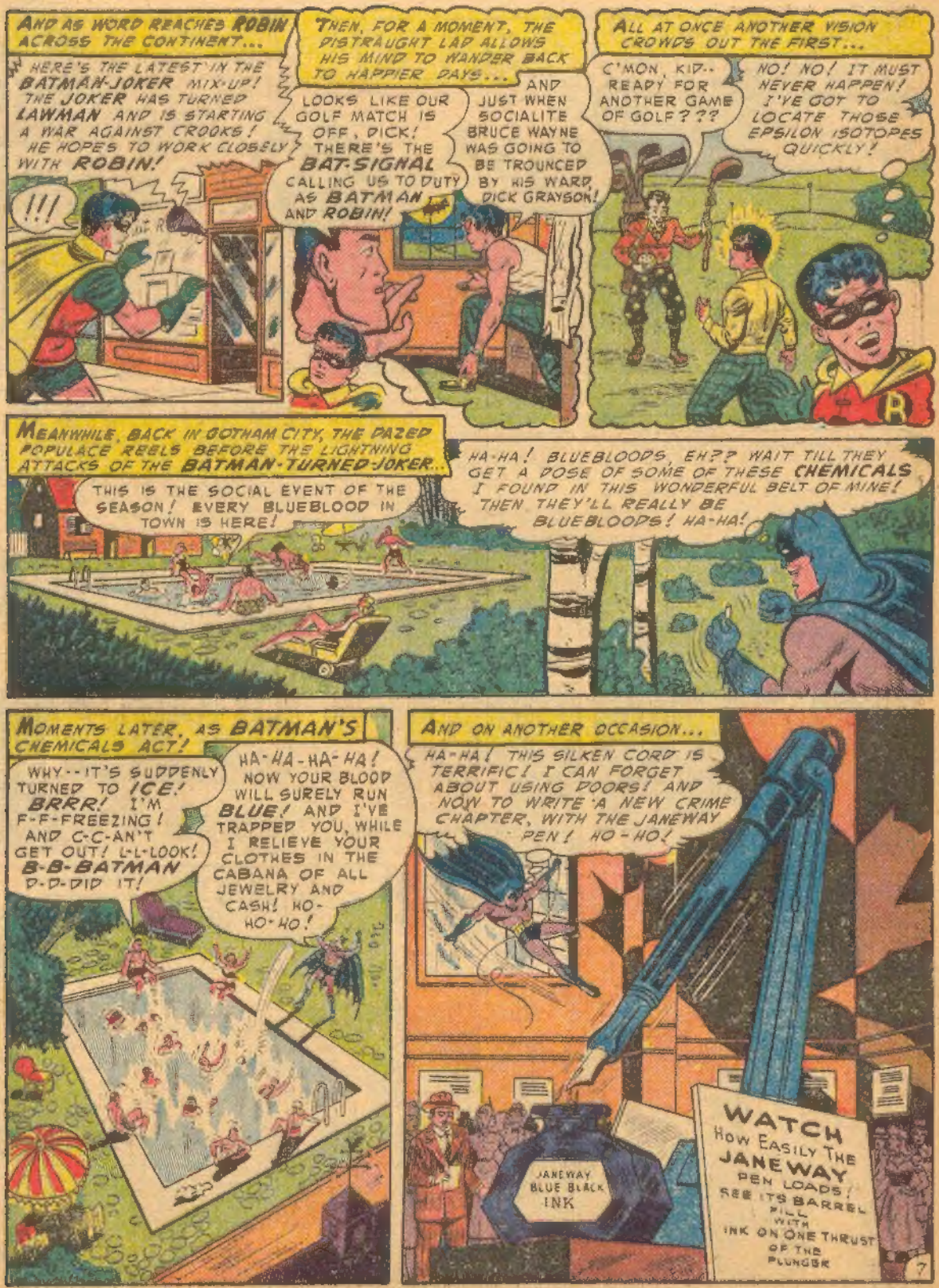
MEANWHILE, IN DOWNTOWN GOTHAM CITY...
HELP! POLICE! PAYROLL ROBBERS! THEY'VE BLOCKED THE ELEVATORS AND STAIRS!
VOTE FOR ALAN DENT--OUR FAIR CITY'S NEXT MAYOR
HMM! LOOKS LIKE THAT SIGN IS THE QUICKEST WAY UP! AND THAT BUS IS THE QUICKEST WAY UP TO THE SIGN!
WITH SURE-FOOTED AGILITY, THE JOKER SCRAMBLES TO THE ROOF OF THE BUS! THEN...
NOW TO CLIMB THIS LIKE A ROPE LADDER!
LOOK AT THE JOKER! MUST BE HIS HENCHMEN IN THERE!
MOMENTS LATER...
WOW--LOOK AT THAT! I NEVER KNEW THE JOKER WAS SO AGILE!
SA-AY! THAT'S THE KIND OF STUNT ONLY BATMAN COULD PULL OFF!
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S A REGULAR BATMAN FEAT!
AND AS THE JOKER QUICKLY MAKES HIS WAY INTO THE BESIEGED OFFICE...
HEY, JOKER!! YOU GONE LOCO??? TAKE IT EASY--WE'LL CUT YOU IN!
YOU MUST BE LOCO TO THINK YOU CAN BRIBE ME! I'M BRINGING YOU ALL INTO HEADQUARTERS!
SOON AFTER...
HERE THEY ARE, OFFICERS -- ALL READY FOR A NICE COZY CELL! YOU'LL FIND THE PAYROLL INTACT UPSTAIRS!
WELL, NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! IMAGINE THE JOKER ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW! THE WORLD GETS CRAZIER EVERY DAY!
PD
G


AND AS WORD REACHES ROBIN ACROSS THE CONTINENT...
HERE'S THE LATEST IN THE BATMAN-JOKER MIX-UP! THE JOKER HAS TURNED LAWMAN AND IS STARTING A WAR AGAINST CROOKS! HE HOPES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ROBIN!
!!!
THEN, FOR A MOMENT, THE DISTRAUGHT LAD ALLOWS HIS MIND TO WANDER BACK TO HAPPIER DAYS...
LOOKS LIKE OUR GOLF MATCH IS OFF, DICK! THERE'S THE BAT-SIGNAL CALLING US TO DUTY AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!
AND JUST WHEN SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE WAS GOING TO BE TROUNCED BY HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON!
ALL AT ONCE ANOTHER VISION CROWDS OUT THE FIRST...
C'MON, KID.. READY FOR ANOTHER GAME OF GOLF???
NO! NO! IT MUST NEVER HAPPEN! I'VE GOT TO LOCATE THOSE EPSILON ISOTOPES QUICKLY!
MEANWHILE, BACK IN GOTHAM CITY, THE DAZED POPULACE REELS BEFORE THE LIGHTNING ATTACKS OF THE BATMAN-TURNED-JOKER..
THIS IS THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SEASON! EVERY BLUEBLOOD IN TOWN IS HERE!
HA-HA! BLUEBLOODS, EH?? WAIT TILL THEY GET A DOSE OF SOME OF THESE CHEMICALS I FOUND IN THIS WONDERFUL BELT OF MINE! THEN THEY'LL REALLY BE BLUEBLOODS! HA-HA!
MOMENTS LATER, AS BATMAN'S CHEMICALS ACT!
WHY--IT'S SUDDENLY TURNED TO ICE! BRRR! I'M F-F-FREEZING! AND C-C-CAN'T GET OUT! L-L-LOOK! B-B-BATMAN D-D-DID IT!
HA-HA-HA-HA! NOW YOUR BLOOD WILL SURELY RUN BLUE! AND I'VE TRAPPED YOU, WHILE I RELIEVE YOUR CLOTHES IN THE CABANA OF ALL JEWELRY AND CASH! HO-HO-HO!
AND ON ANOTHER OCCASION...
HA-HA! THIS SILKEN CORD IS TERRIFIC! I CAN FORGET ABOUT USING DOORS! AND NOW TO WRITE A NEW CRIME CHAPTER, WITH THE JANEWAY PEN! HO-HO!
JANEWAY BLUE BLACK INK
WATCH HOW EASILY THE JANEWAY PEN LOADS! SEE ITS BARREL FILL WITH INK ON ONE THRUST OF THE PLUNGER
7

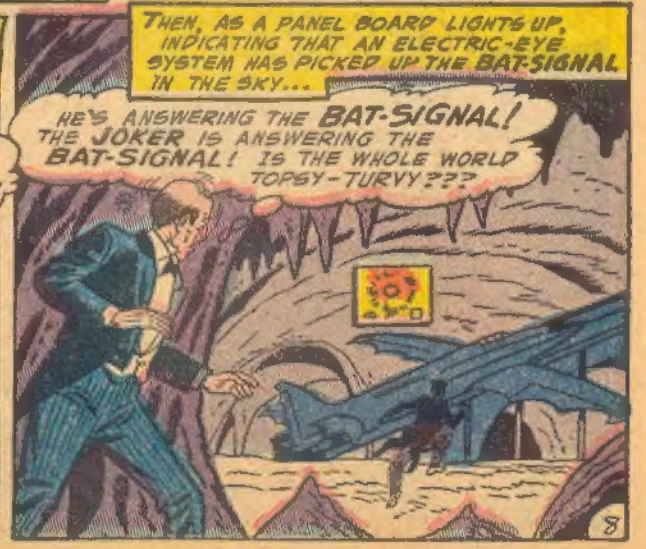
GASP! GURGLE! CAN'T SEE!
HO-HO-HO! THIS PEN WILL CLEAR A WAY RIGHT TO THE COMPANY PAYROLL! HA-HA-HA!

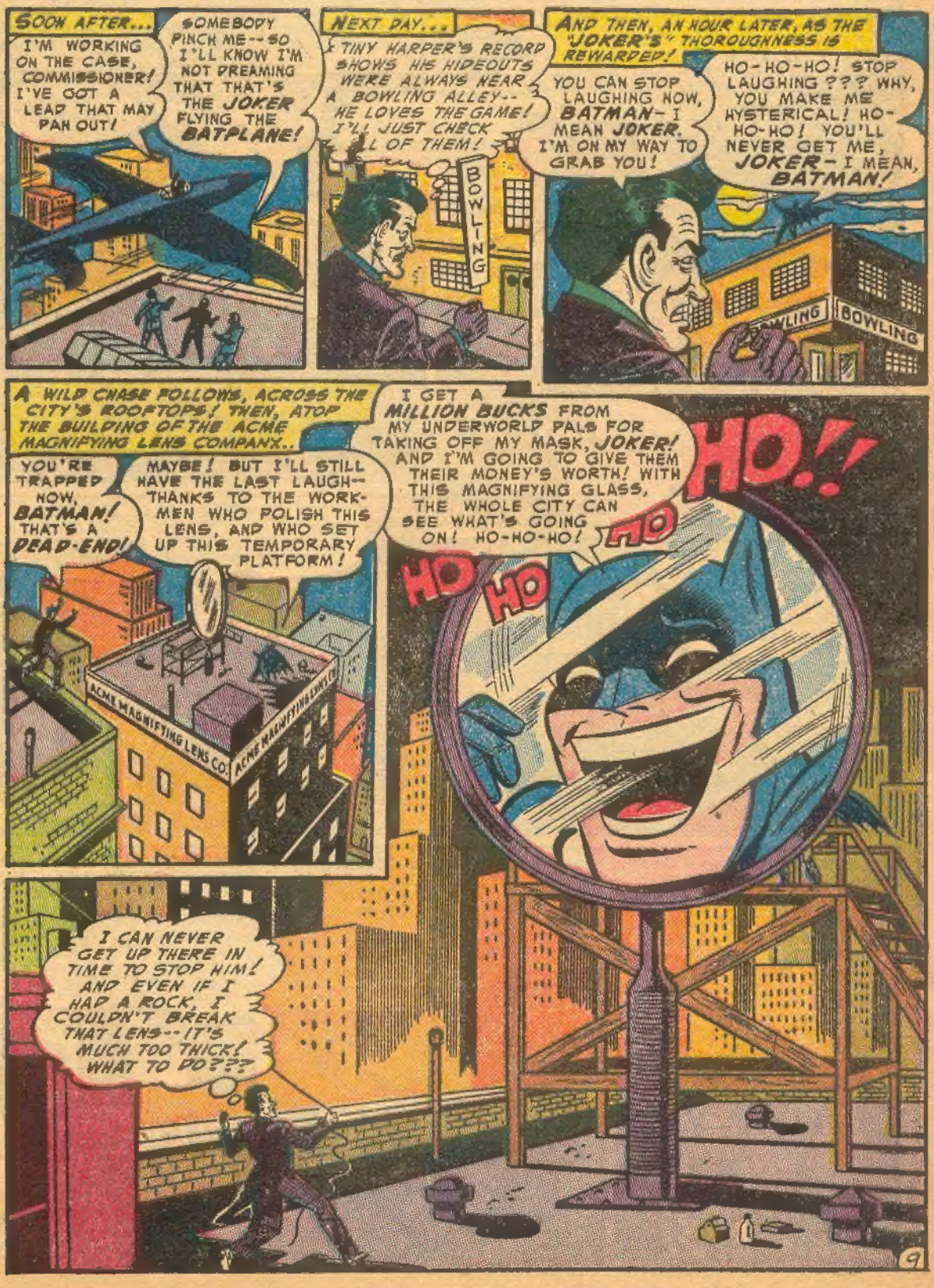
THAT NIGHT, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
WE MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS! NOT ONLY IS BATMAN CREATING HAVOC, BUT WORD HAS REACHED ME THAT THE UNDERWORLD HAS ALMOST RAISED THE MILLION DOLLARS "BATMAN" ASKED FOR TO REVEAL HIS IDENTITY!
THAT MEANS WE'VE GOT TO CLAP HIM IN A CELL-- PUT HIM IN A STRAIGHTJACKET IF NECESSARY, TO KEEP HIM FROM PULLING OFF THAT MASK! IF WE CAN CATCH HIM!

WHY NOT TURN ON THE BAT-SIGNAL, COMMISSIONER? IT'LL BRING THE JOKER IN A HURRY!
THE JOKER? WHO WANTS HIM??? OH, YES, I FORGOT! THE JOKER NOW HAS THE MIND OF BATMAN-- AND WE COULD USE THAT MIND!

MEANWHILE, AT THE WAYNE MANSION, ALFRED THE BUTLER, ONLY PERSON BESIDES ROBIN TO KNOW OF BRUCE WAYNE'S DUAL IDENTITY, STARES IN DISBELIEF AT A VISITOR!
THE JOKER-- COMING HERE!! I'VE GREETED MANY VISITORS IN MY TIME-- BUT THIS!

PREOCCUPIED, THE JOKER IMMEDIATELY DESCENDS THE SECRET STAIRCASE TO THE BAT-CAVE, A BEFUDDLED ALFRED FOLLOWING HIM...
TINY HARPER IS THE RINGLEADER OF THE CROOKS GATHERING UP THAT MILLION DOLLARS--IT'S JUST POSSIBLE BATMAN MAY BE HANGING AROUND HIM WAITING.
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE EXPLANATION IS! I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THIS!


THEN, AS A PANEL BOARD LIGHTS UP, INDICATING THAT AN ELECTRIC-EYE SYSTEM HAS PICKED UP THE BAT-SIGNAL IN THE SKY...
HE'S ANSWERING THE BAT-SIGNAL! THE JOKER IS ANSWERING THE BAT-SIGNAL! IS THE WHOLE WORLD TOPSY-TURVY???


SOON AFTER...
I'M WORKING ON THE CASE, COMMISSIONER! I'VE GOT A LEAD THAT MAY PAN OUT!
SOMEBODY PINCH ME--SO I'LL KNOW I'M NOT DREAMING THAT THAT'S THE JOKER FLYING THE BATPLANE!
NEXT DAY...
TINY HARPER'S RECORD SHOWS HIS HIDEOUTS WERE ALWAYS NEAR A BOWLING ALLEY-- HE LOVES THE GAME! I'LL JUST CHECK ALL OF THEM!
BOWLING
AND THEN, AN HOUR LATER, AS THE "JOKER'S" THOROUGHNESS IS REWARDED!
YOU CAN STOP LAUGHING NOW, BATMAN- I MEAN JOKER. I'M ON MY WAY TO GRAB YOU!
HO-HO-HO! STOP LAUGHING ??? WHY, YOU MAKE ME HYSTERICAL! HO-HO-HO! YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, JOKER- I MEAN, BATMAN!
BOWLING
BOWLING
A WILD CHASE FOLLOWS, ACROSS THE CITY'S ROOFTOPS! THEN, ATOP THE BUILDING OF THE ACME MAGNIFYING LENS COMPANY..
YOU'RE TRAPPED NOW, BATMAN! THAT'S A DEAD-END!
MAYBE! BUT I'LL STILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH-- THANKS TO THE WORKMEN WHO POLISH THIS LENS, AND WHO SET UP THIS TEMPORARY PLATFORM!
ACME MAGNIFYING LENS CO.
ACME MAGNIFYING LENS CO.
I GET A MILLION BUCKS FROM MY UNDERWORLD PALS FOR TAKING OFF MY MASK, JOKER! AND I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM THEIR MONEY'S WORTH! WITH THIS MAGNIFYING GLASS, THE WHOLE CITY CAN SEE WHAT'S GOING ON! HO-HO-HO!
HO!!
HO
HO HO
I CAN NEVER GET UP THERE IN TIME TO STOP HIM! AND EVEN IF I HAD A ROCK, I COULDN'T BREAK THAT LENS--IT'S MUCH TOO THICK! WHAT TO DO???
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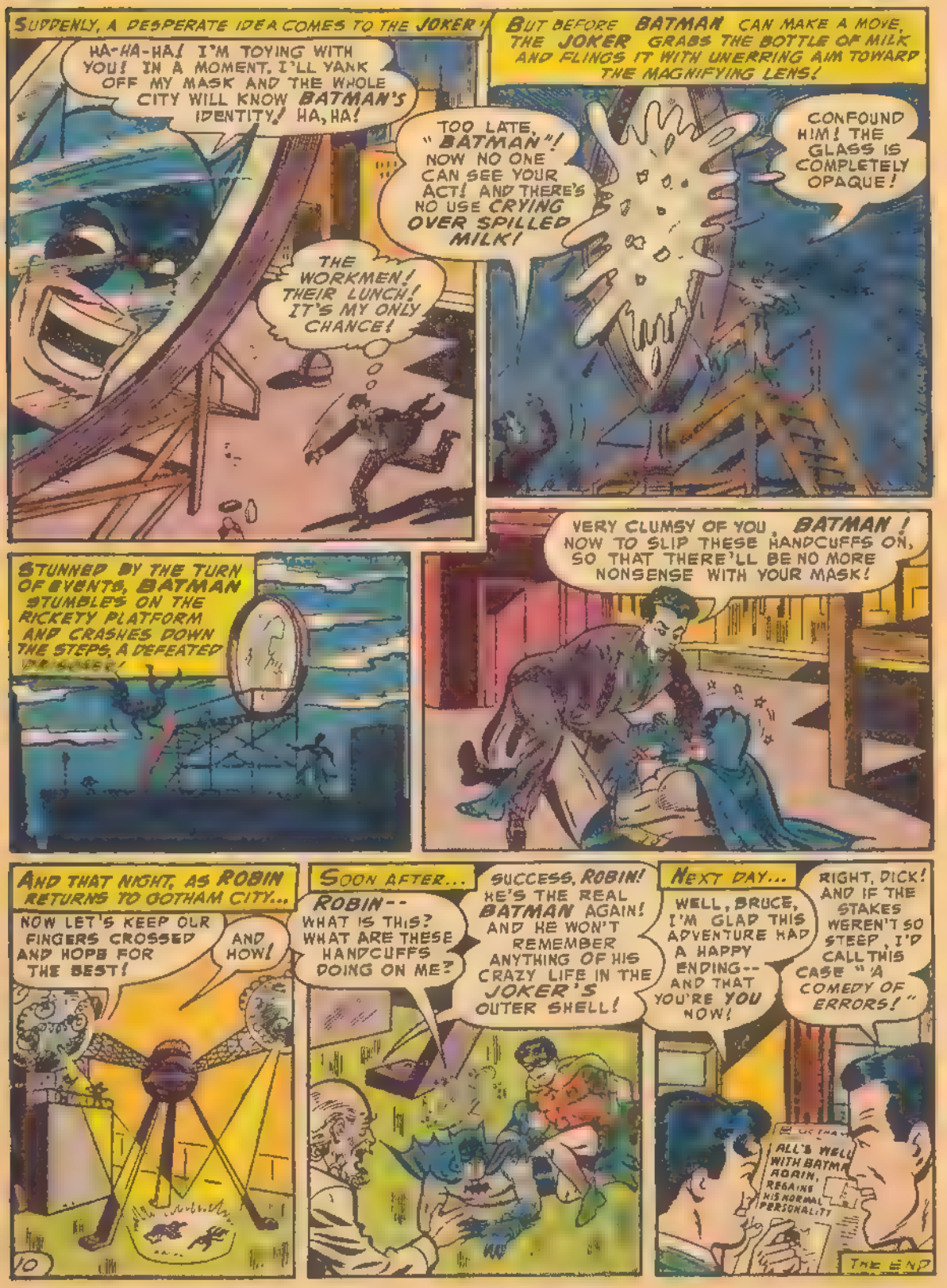
SUDDENLY, A DESPERATE IDEA COMES TO THE JOKER!
HA-HA-HA! I'M TOYING WITH YOU! IN A MOMENT, I'LL YANK OFF MY MASK AND THE WHOLE CITY WILL KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY! HA, HA!
TOO LATE, "BATMAN"! NOW NO ONE CAN SEE YOUR ACT! AND THERE'S NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK!
THE WORKMEN! THEIR LUNCH! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!
BUT BEFORE BATMAN CAN MAKE A MOVE, THE JOKER GRABS THE BOTTLE OF MILK AND FLINGS IT WITH UNERRING AIM TOWARD THE MAGNIFYING LENS!
CONFOUND HIM! THE GLASS IS COMPLETELY OPAQUE!
STUNNED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS, BATMAN STUMBLES ON THE RICKETY PLATFORM AND CRASHES DOWN THE STEPS, A DEFEATED
VERY CLUMSY OF YOU, BATMAN! NOW TO SLIP THESE HANDCUFFS ON, SO THAT THERE'LL BE NO MORE NONSENSE WITH YOUR MASK!
AND THAT NIGHT, AS ROBIN RETURNS TO GOTHAM CITY...
NOW LET'S KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!
AND HOW!
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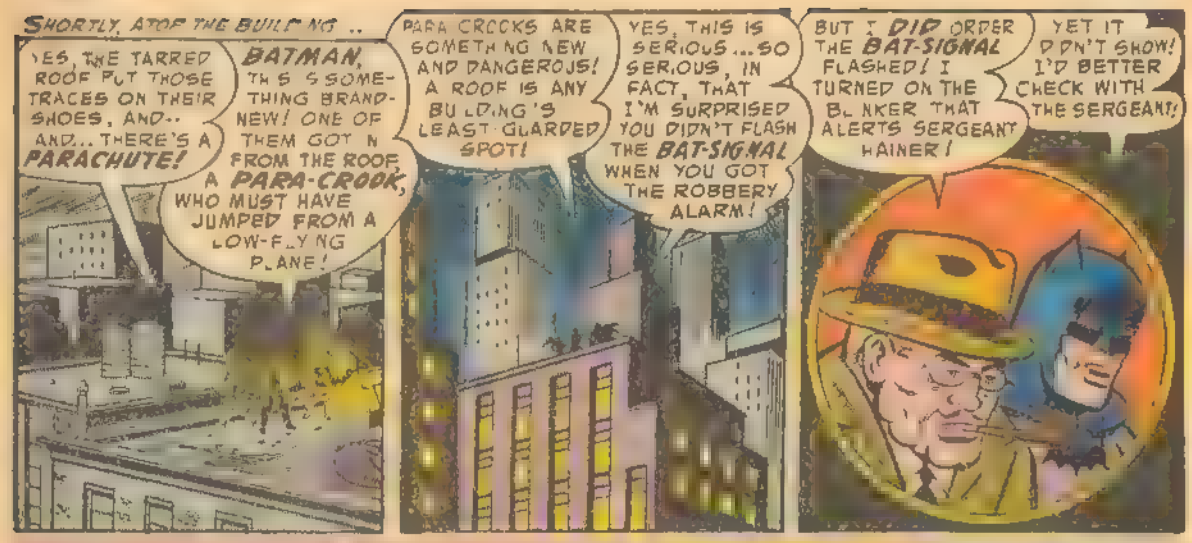
SOON AFTER...
ROBIN-- WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE THESE HANDCUFFS DOING ON ME?
SUCCESS, ROBIN! HE'S THE REAL BATMAN AGAIN! AND HE WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING OF HIS CRAZY LIFE IN THE JOKER'S OUTER SHELL!
NEXT DAY...
WELL, BRUCE, I'M GLAD THIS ADVENTURE HAD A HAPPY ENDING-- AND THAT YOU'RE YOU NOW!
RIGHT, DICK! AND IF THE STAKES WEREN'T SO STEEP, I'D CALL THIS CASE "A COMEDY OF ERRORS!"
ALL'S WELL WITH BATMAN & ROBIN, REGAINS HIS NORMAL PERSONALITY
THE END

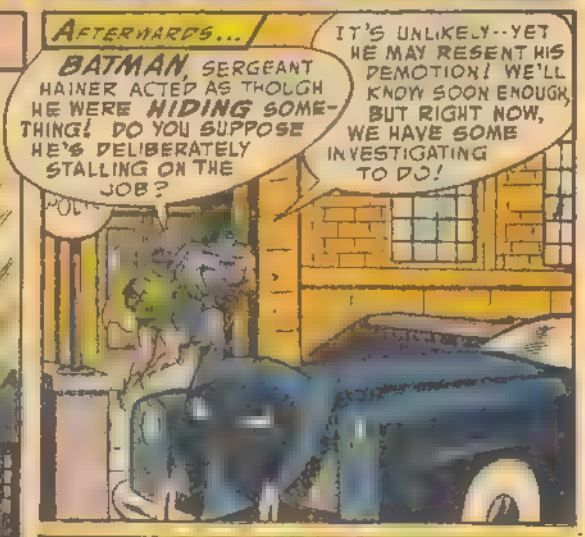
BAT MAN
& ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
A SHAFT OF LIGHT STABS INTO THE SKY, AND A GRIM AND EERIE SIGN APPEARS OVER GOTHAM CITY! YES, IT IS THE FAMED BAT-SIGNAL THAT CALLS BATMAN AND ROBIN TO ACTION... A SIGNAL OF DOOM FOR MANY WHO FOLLOWED CRIME! BUT THE SUMMONING SKY-SIGN FAILS, AND BRINGS DANGER TO THE DYNAMIC DUO THEMSELVES, WHEN A SINISTER FATE STRIKES AT... "The GUARDIAN of the BAT-SIGNAL!"
WITH NO BAT-SIGNAL TO CALL US, WE'RE TOO LATE AGAIN TO PREVENT A CRIME!
US
BOB KANE

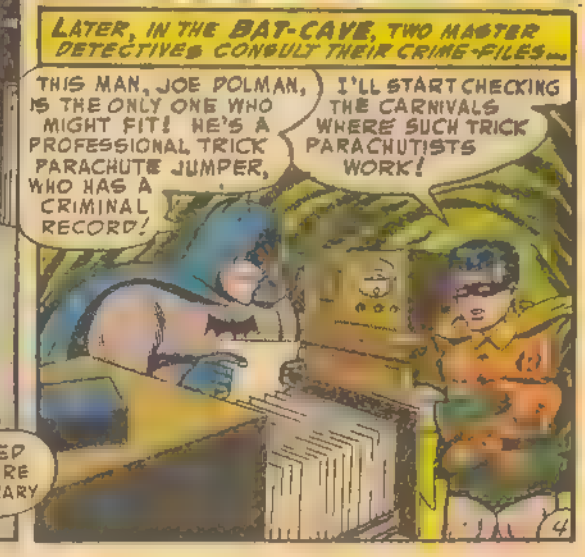
ONE NIGHT, AS TWO CRIMINALS ATTEMPT A ROBBERY AT GOTHAM CITY HARBOR
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY HARVEY. HURRY OR THEY'LL ESCAPE IN THEIR LAUNCH!
HA HA! THAT BUMBLING OLD SERGEANT CAN'T CATCH US!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT A STRONG ARM REACHES THE CRANE-CONTROLS
LOOK AT THE CRANE-CONTROLS ROBIN! THAT
BATMAN! HE DROPPED OUT OF THE SKY ON US!
LATER AS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON REPRIMANDS A VETERAN OF THE FORCE..
THE OLD BULLET-AROUND FROM A CROOK'S PISTOL MAKES YE SLOW SOMETIMES BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, COMMISSIONER!
I'M AFRAID IT'S HAPPENED ONCE TOO OFTEN, HARVEY! YOU'RE A FINE OFFICER, BUT TOO SLOW NOW! I'LL HAVE TO RETIRE YOU FROM THE FORCE!
BUT, COMMISSIONER... THE POLICE FORCE IS MY WHOLE LIFE. YOU YOU JUST CAN'T RETIRE ME!
GOSH--THIS IS BREAKING THE OLD SERGEANT'S HEART... BUT I'VE AN IDEA THAT MAY SAVE HIM!
COMMISSIONER, YOU NEED A MAN TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE BAT-SIGNAL! WHY NOT LET SERGEANT HARVEY DO THAT?
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS OLD BOY! IT'S 100 TIMES AS POWERFUL AS ANY ORDINARY SEARCH-LIGHT-- AND THAT GLASS IS BULLET-PROOF!
DON'T WORRY... I'LL KEEP IT IN GOOD CONDITION! I APPRECIATE YOUR GETTING ME KEPT ON THE FORCE, BATMAN!
THUS ON THE HIGH ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AN OLD POLICEMAN SOON TAKES OVER NEW DUTIES..
WHEN I WANT THE BAT-SIGNAL FLASHED, I'LL BLINK THIS RED WARNING LIGHT!
YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME, COMMISSIONER!
YES, BATMAN HAS DONE A GOOD DEED BUT ONE HE WILL SOON HAVE CAUSE TO REGRET

... FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AS HE AND ROBIN RELAX IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...
BRUCE! A POLICE-RADIO FLASH! THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE WAS JUST ROBBED, AND THE THIEVES ARE SPEEDING NORTH!
BUT WHY WASN'T THE BAT-SIGNAL USED TO CALL US IN?
WELL--NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!
A QUICK CHANGE OF GARMENTS, AND THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE ROARS FROM THE HIDDEN BAT-CAVE BENEATH THE WAYNE MANSION, AND SPEEDS TOWARD GOTHAM CITY...
THE LAST RADIO-FLASH SAID THE THIEVES WERE IN A BLACK SEDAN, HEADING NORTH!
THERE THEY GO UP THE ELEVATED HIGHWAY, AS I GUESSED THEY WOULD! HOLD ON, ROBIN!
I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE BAT-SIGNAL WASN'T FLASHED! WE COULD'VE HEADED THEM OFF IF WE'D HAD MORE TIME!
LOOK! THEY'RE SHOOTING AT THAT BIG TRUCK COMING TOWARD US!
AND AS BULLETS PUNCTURE THE TRUCK'S TIRES...
WE CAN'T CATCH THEM NOW--BUT I RECOGNIZED THAT BUNCH...THEY'RE THE LEW LAKERS MOB!
GUESS WE'D BETTER GO ON TO THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT!
SCREECHH--
BASH!
BUT AT THE SCENE OF THE ROBBERY, COMMISSIONER GORDON GREETS THEM WITH A STRANGE PROBLEM...
THE WATCHMAN INSIDE WAS STUNNED AND THE DIAMONDS WERE STOLEN--BUT HOW COULD ANY CROOKS GET IN? EVERY DOOR AND WINDOW WAS GUARDED BY THE MODERN NEW ELECTRIC-EYE ALARMS!
IN OTHER WORDS, AN ALARM SHOULD'VE GONE OFF THE MOMENT A WINDOW OR DOOR WAS OPENED!
EXACTLY . AND THE ELECTRONIC EYE DID SOUND THE ALARM WHEN THE CROOKS ESCAPED THROUGH THIS WINDOW! BUT HOW DID THEY GET IN WITHOUT AN ALARM?
HMM... THESE FOOTPRINTS HAVE TRACES OF TAR ON THEM! LET'S LOOK AT THE ROOF!
3

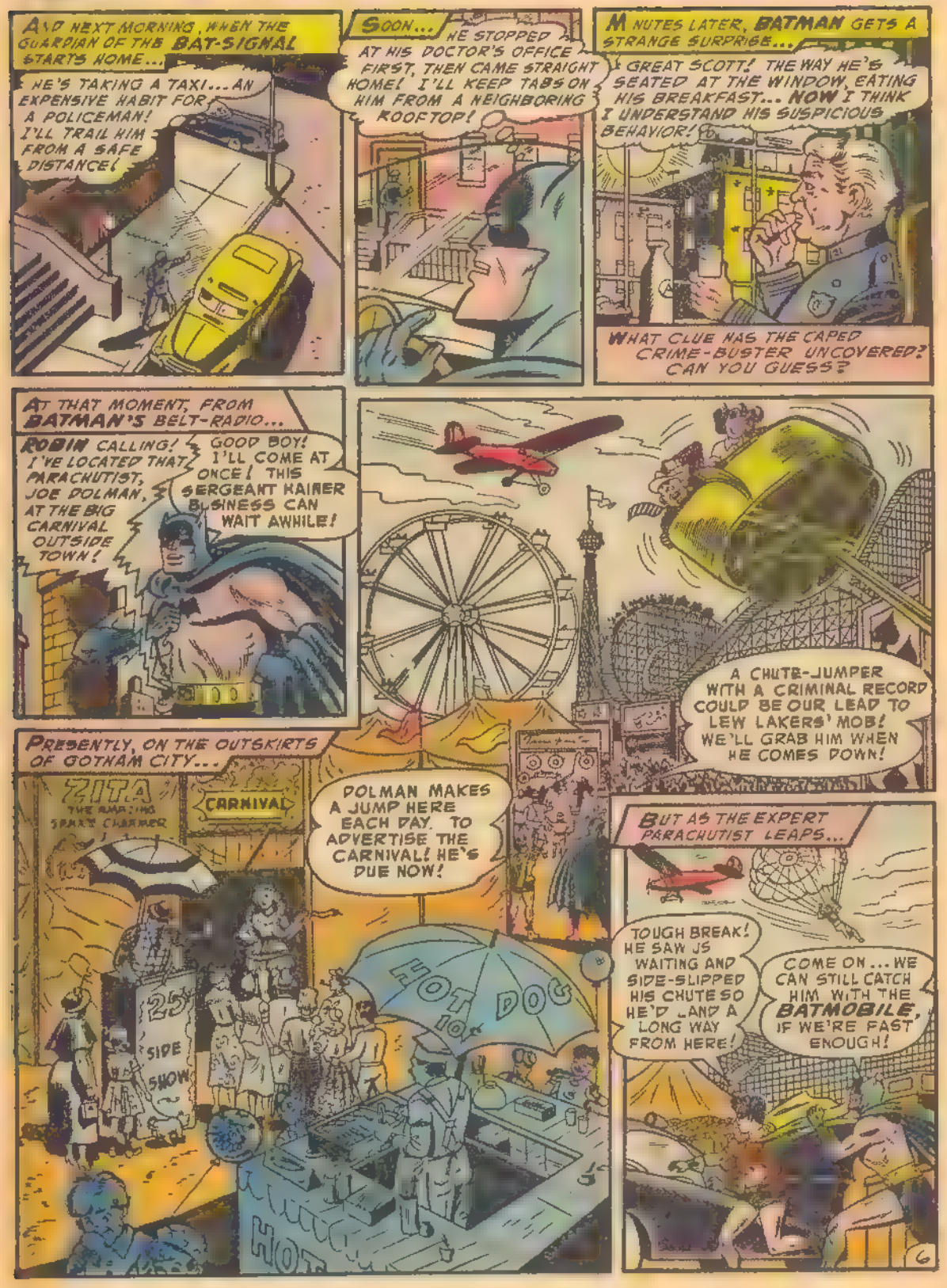

SHORTLY, ATOP THE BUILDING ..
YES, THE TARRED ROOF PUT THOSE TRACES ON THEIR SHOES, AND.. AND.. THERE'S A PARACHUTE!
BATMAN, THIS IS SOMETHING BRAND-NEW! ONE OF THEM GOT IN FROM THE ROOF A PARA-CROOK, WHO MUST HAVE JUMPED FROM A LOW-FLYING PLANE!
PARA CROOKS ARE SOMETHING NEW AND DANGEROUS! A ROOF IS ANY BUILDING'S LEAST GUARDED SPOT!
YES, THIS IS SERIOUS...SO SERIOUS, IN FACT, THAT I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL WHEN YOU GOT THE ROBBERY ALARM!
BUT I DID ORDER THE BAT-SIGNAL FLASHED! I TURNED ON THE BLINKER THAT ALERTS SERGEANT HAINER!
YET IT DOESN'T SHOW! I'D BETTER CHECK WITH THE SERGEANT!

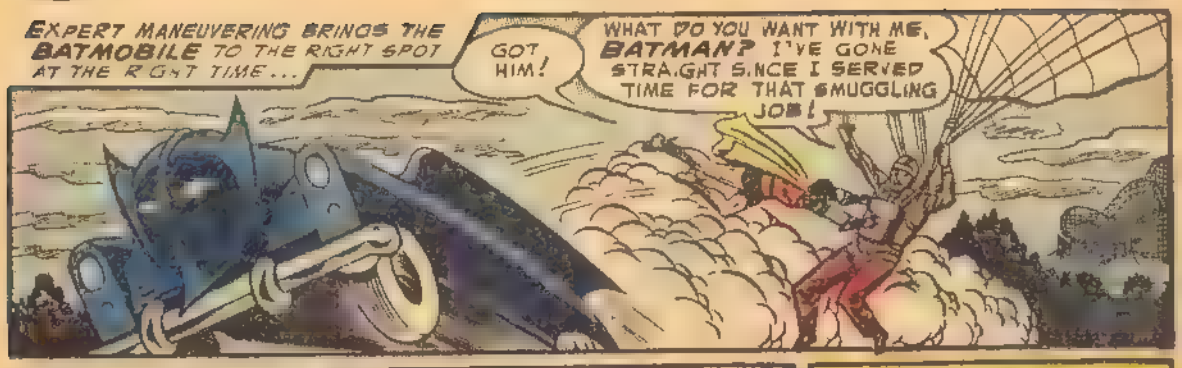
AT HEADQUARTERS, SERGEANT HAINER HAS AN EXPLANATION -- BUT NOT A VERY CONVINCING ONE ...
YOU SAY THE RED BLINKER DIDN'T LIGHT UP TO WARN YOU? BUT IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY NOW! SO IS THE BAT-SIGNAL!
WELL, IT DIDN'T WORK THEN, OR I'D CERTAINLY HAVE TURNED ON THE BAT-SIGNAL! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TEMPORARY WIRE FAILURE!


AFTERWARDS...
BATMAN, SERGEANT HAINER ACTED AS THOUGH HE WERE HIDING SOMETHING! DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S DELIBERATELY STALLING ON THE JOB?
IT'S UNLIKELY--YET HE MAY RESENT HIS DEMOTION! WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH, BUT RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE SOME INVESTIGATING TO DO!

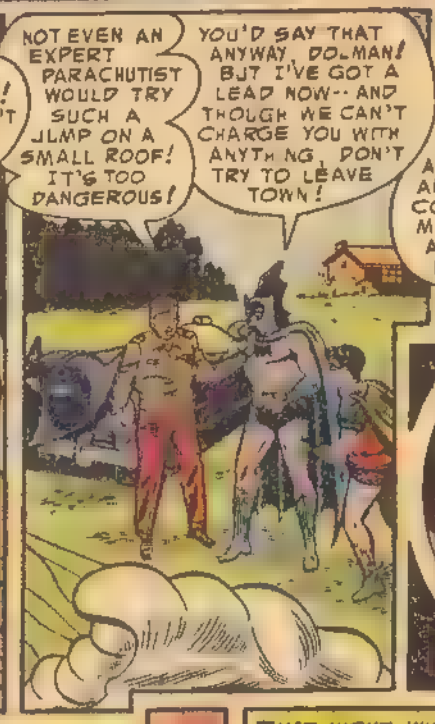

LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE, TWO MASTER DETECTIVES CONSULT THEIR CRIME-FILES...
THIS MAN, JOE DOLMAN, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT FIT! HE'S A PROFESSIONAL TRICK PARACHUTE JUMPER, WHO HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD!
I'LL START CHECKING THE CARNIVALS WHERE SUCH TRICK PARACHUTISTS WORK!
4

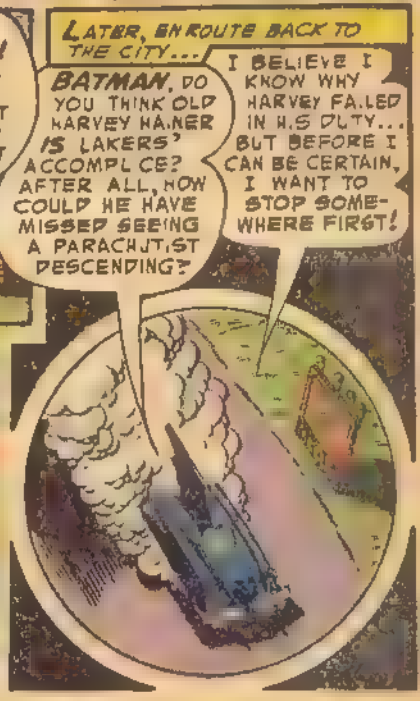
AND WHILE ROBIN SEARCH, BATMAN CONDUCTS AN AERIAL VIGIL OVER THE CITY...
NO SIGN YET OF LEW LAKERS' MOB! FUNNY, THOUGH... I CAN'T KEEP FROM WORRYING ABOUT OLD HARVEY! WHY DID HE ACT SO STRANGELY?
JUST THEN...
OH, OH--- THOSE POLICE CARS... HEADING FOR THE FIRST SUBURBAN BANK... SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! I'D BETTER LAND IN THE PARK AND INVESTIGATE!
BUT ALREADY, THERE HAS BEEN A FATAL DELAY, SO THAT BY THE TIME BATMAN REACHES HIS DESTINATION...
YOU'RE TOO LATE! IT WAS A ROBBERY BY PARACHUTE AGAIN! THE NEW ELECTRONIC ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF UNTIL THEY ESCAPED OUT A WINDOW!
THE BAT-SIGNAL WOULD'VE GOTTEN ME HERE IN TIME! I'M GOING TO SEE WHY IT DIDN'T FLASH!
AT HEADQUARTERS, HOWEVER, THE UGLY MYSTERY ONLY DEEPENS...
SORRY... I DON'T GET ANY BLINKER-ORDER TO FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL!
BUT YOU MUST HAVE! I PRESSED THE BUTTON! SERGEANT HAINER, I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT YOU'RE IN LEAGUE TO PROTECT THESE PARA-CROOKS!
THIS IS THE MAN WHO HEADS THAT MOB! ARE YOU PROTECTING HIM BY NOT TURNING ON THE BAT-SIGNAL?
WHY SHOULD I? I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE IN MY LIFE!
NOW I KNOW HE'S LYING, BATMAN-- BECAUSE HE TWICE ARRESTED LEW LAKERS, AND KNOWS HIM WELL!
WE'LL LEAVE HIM IN CHARGE OF THE BAT-SIGNAL FOR THE TIME BEING! I'LL FOLLOW HIM WHEN HE GOES OFF DUTY, TO SEE IF HE'S CONTACTING LAKERS' MOB!

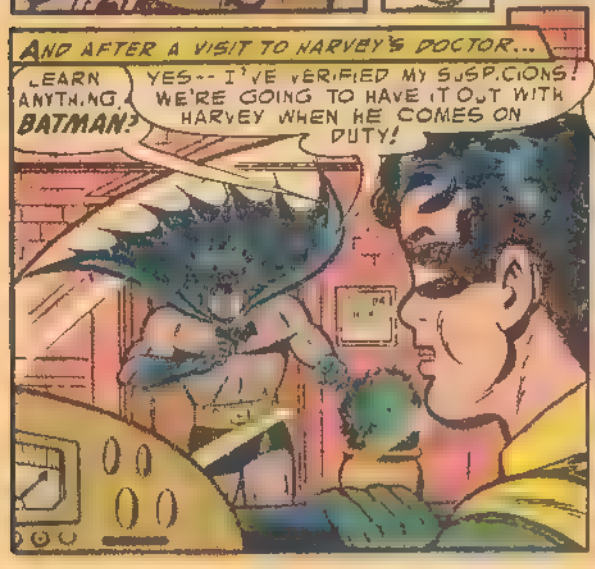

AND NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL STARTS HOME...
HE'S TAKING A TAXI... AN EXPENSIVE HABIT FOR A POLICEMAN! I'LL TRAIL HIM FROM A SAFE DISTANCE!
SOON... HE STOPPED AT HIS DOCTOR'S OFFICE FIRST, THEN CAME STRAIGHT HOME! I'LL KEEP TABS ON HIM FROM A NEIGHBORING ROOFTOP!
MINUTES LATER, BATMAN GETS A STRANGE SURPRISE...
GREAT SCOTT! THE WAY HE'S SEATED AT THE WINDOW, EATING HIS BREAKFAST... NOW I THINK I UNDERSTAND HIS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR!
WHAT CLUE HAS THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER UNCOVERED? CAN YOU GUESS?
AT THAT MOMENT, FROM BATMAN'S BELT-RADIO...
ROBIN CALLING! I'VE LOCATED THAT PARACHUTIST, JOE DOLMAN, AT THE BIG CARNIVAL OUTSIDE TOWN!
GOOD BOY! I'LL COME AT ONCE! THIS SERGEANT KAINER BUSINESS CAN WAIT AWHILE!
A CHUTE-JUMPER WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD COULD BE OUR LEAD TO LEW LAKERS' MOB! WE'LL GRAB HIM WHEN HE COMES DOWN!
PRESENTLY, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...
ZITA THE AMAZING SPIRIT CHARMER
CARNIVAL
DOLMAN MAKES A JUMP HERE EACH DAY. TO ADVERTISE THE CARNIVAL! HE'S DUE NOW!
HOT DOG 10¢
25 SIDE SHOW
BUT AS THE EXPERT PARACHUTIST LEAPS...
TOUGH BREAK! HE SAW JS WAITING AND SIDE-SLIPPED HIS CHUTE SO HE'D LAND A LONG WAY FROM HERE!
COME ON... WE CAN STILL CATCH HIM WITH THE BATMOBILE, IF WE'RE FAST ENOUGH!
6

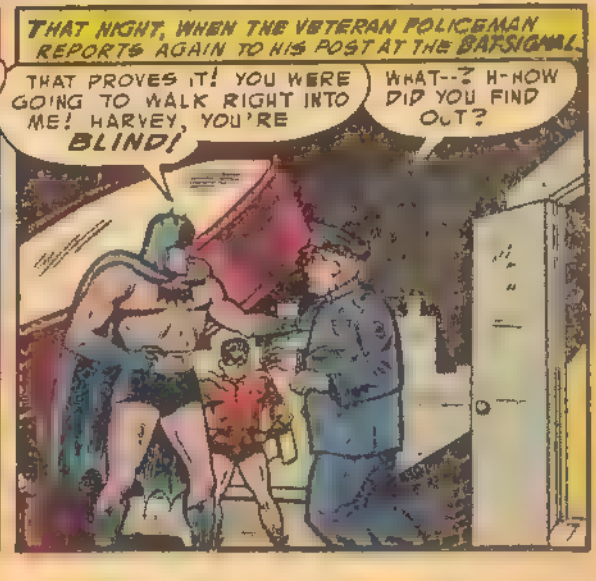

EXPERT MANEUVERING BRINGS THE BATMOBILE TO THE RIGHT SPOT AT THE RIGHT TIME...
GOT HIM!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME, BATMAN? I'VE GONE STRAIGHT SINCE I SERVED TIME FOR THAT SMUGGLING JOB!

WITH YOUR EXPERT CHUTE-CONTROL, YOU COULD HAVE LANDED ON DOWNTOWN ROOFS AND OPENED UP BUILDINGS FOR LAKERS' MOB!
BUT I DIDN'T! YOU CAN'T PROVE I DID!


NOT EVEN AN EXPERT PARACHUTIST WOULD TRY SUCH A JUMP ON A SMALL ROOF! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
YOU'D SAY THAT ANYWAY, DOLMAN! BUT I'VE GOT A LEAD NOW-- AND THOUGH WE CAN'T CHARGE YOU WITH ANYTHING, DON'T TRY TO LEAVE TOWN!


LATER, EN ROUTE BACK TO THE CITY...
BATMAN, DO YOU THINK OLD HARVEY HAINER IS LAKERS' ACCOMPLICE? AFTER ALL, HOW COULD HE HAVE MISSED SEEING A PARACHUTIST DESCENDING?
I BELIEVE I KNOW WHY HARVEY FAILED IN HIS DUTY... BUT BEFORE I CAN BE CERTAIN, I WANT TO STOP SOMEWHERE FIRST!


AND AFTER A VISIT TO HARVEY'S DOCTOR...
LEARN ANYTHING, BATMAN?
YES-- I'VE VERIFIED MY SUSPICIONS! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE IT OUT WITH HARVEY WHEN HE COMES ON DUTY!


THAT NIGHT, WHEN THE VETERAN POLICEMAN REPORTS AGAIN TO HIS POST AT THE BATSIGNAL...
THAT PROVES IT! YOU WERE GOING TO WALK RIGHT INTO ME! HARVEY, YOU'RE BLIND!
WHAT--? H-HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

WHEN I SAW YOU SITTING IN THE FULL BLAZE OF THE SUN WITHOUT BLINKING, THIS MORNING, I GUESSED THE ANSWER! THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T FLASH THAT BAT-SIGNAL... BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T SEE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S SIGNAL!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN... MY SIGHT HAS BEEN FAILING ME -- BECAUSE OF THAT OLD BULLET WOUND! BUT THE DOCTOR SAID I'D SOON RECOVER -- AND I WANTED TO STAY ON DUTY UNTIL I COULD SEE WELL AGAIN!
I UNDERSTAND, HARVEY-- AND I'M GOING TO HELP YOU OPERATE THE BAT-SIGNAL WITHOUT SEEING! FROM NOW ON, WE'LL USE A PHONE FOR ORDERS FROM THE COMMISSIONER!
WONDERFUL! I COULD HEAR HIS ORDERS THEN, AND TURN ON THE SIGNAL!
RIGHT! USE ONE HAND TO OPERATE A RHEOSTAT-CONTROL, AND PLACE THE OTHER ON THE LENS! THAT WAY, YOU CAN TELL BY THE HEAT IF THE BEAM IS ON!
SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH!
NOW WE'RE GOING TO TRACE DOWN A LEAD! BUT IF ANOTHER ROBBERY BREAKS, IT'S VITAL THAT YOU NOTIFY US BY THE BAT-SIGNAL AT ONCE!
DON'T WORRY... FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME!
LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RE-VISIT THE SCENE OF THE FIRST PARACHUTE CRIME...
YES, OUR ALARM SYSTEM WAS JUST RECENTLY INSTALLED BY THAT NEW ELECTRONIC ALARM COMPANY! UNFORTUNATELY, IT DIDN'T SEEM NECESSARY TO GUARD THE ROOF!
HMM... ALL THE INTERIOR WIRING SEEMS INTACT!
AND IT'S THE SAME STORY AT THE FIRST SUBURBAN BANK...
SO THE BANK'S SYSTEM WAS ALSO INSTALLED BY THE ELECTRIC ALARM COMPANY -- BUT HOW DOES THAT HELP US NAB THE PARACHUTE CROOKS?
THERE NEVER WERE SUCH CROOKS, ROBIN! THOSE CHUTES WERE PLANTED ON THE ROOFS, AS A BLIND TO COVER THEIR REAL MODE OF ENTRANCE!

YOU MEAN, THE CROOKS NEVER CHUTED DOWN AT ALL?
EXACTLY... AND THE CHUTES PROVED IT! THEY WERE STILL WRINKLED FROM PACKING! ONE THAT'S BEEN USED, LIKE DOLMAN'S, IS SMOOTHED OUT BY THE AIR-PRESSURE!
THEN HOW DID THEY ENTER WITHOUT SOUNDING ONE OF THE ELECTRONIC ALARMS WHEN THEY WENT?
MAYBE WE CAN LEARN THAT BY LOOKING OVER OTHER PLACES FITTED WITH THE ELECTRONIC ALARMS!
MEANWHILE, SERGEANT HAINER GETS A SUDDEN CALL TO DUTY...
THIS IS COMMISSIONER GORDON! ANOTHER PARACHUTE ROBBERY JUST BROKE! FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL!
YES, S R! RIGHT AWAY!
BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS TO OBEY, THE BLIND MAN MAKES A FATAL MISTAKE...
THE LENS IS COLD--THE LAMP DIDN'T COME ON! I MUST HAVE PUSHED THE RHEOSTAT TOO FAR OPEN, AND BLEW THE FUSES!
I'VE LET BATMAN DOWN! IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG TO REPAIR THE FUSES! UNLESS--WAIT... MAYBE THERE'S STILL A WAY!
GROPING HIS WAY TO A ROOM DOWNSTAIRS, SERGEANT HAINER SEARCHES FRANTICALLY FOR REMEMBERED SWITCHES...
YES HERE ARE THE LIGHT-SWITCHES... AND I KNOW THIS POLICE-PHOTOGRAPH STUDIO HAS POWERFUL LIGHTS! NOW TO GET SOME DRAPES AND RETURN TO THE ROOF!
CLICK
MOMENTS LATER...
BY BLANKING OFF PART OF THIS SKYLIGHT WITH THE DARK DRAPES, IT'LL BECOME A SEARCH-LIGHT WITH A BAT-SILHOUETTE AT ITS CENTER! I CAN'T SEE--BUT A BLIND MAN'S FINGERS ARE VERY SENSITIVE!

AND IN THE NIGHT SKY, AN EERIE SIGN FLARES ABOVE GOTHAM CITY...
THE BAT-SIGNAL! THAT MEANS ANOTHER "PARA-CROOK" ROBBERY! LET'S GO, ROBIN!
YES -- AND AFTER WHAT WE'VE FOUND, THERE'S NO DOUBT WHERE TO GO TO FOR THE ROBBERS!
WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, AS JUBILANT CRIMINALS RETURN TO THEIR HIDEOUT...
THIS BURGLAR-ALARM COMPANY IS A PERFECT FRONT FOR OUR JOBS! NOBODY'LL EVER FIGURE OUT HOW -- HEY! ALL THESE WIRES AND BELLS .. WHAT-?
WE DON'T WANT TO ALARM YOU BOYS, BUT WE HAD THESE WIRE TRAPS READY FOR YOU!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
RING
LATER, WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...
WHEN THEY INSTALLED ALARM SYSTEMS, THEY LEFT ONE WINDOW DISCONNECTED -- SO ENTRANCE WAS EASY! THEN THEY CONNECTED THE ALARM, JUST AFTER "BREAKING OUT" OF THAT SAME WINDOW!
AND WITH THE PARACHUTE THEY LEFT ON THE ROOF, NO ONE WOULD DREAM HOW THEY REALLY GOT IN!
AND SO, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS...
SERGEANT HAINER, YOUR QUICK THINKING HAS EARNED YOU A VACATION WITH PAY!
THANKS, SIR! AND WHEN MY SIGHT IS NORMAL AGAIN, I WANT THIS SAME JOB AT THE BAT-SIGNAL! IT ISN'T EVERYONE WHO CAN SAY HE'S A PARTNER OF BATMAN!
THE END

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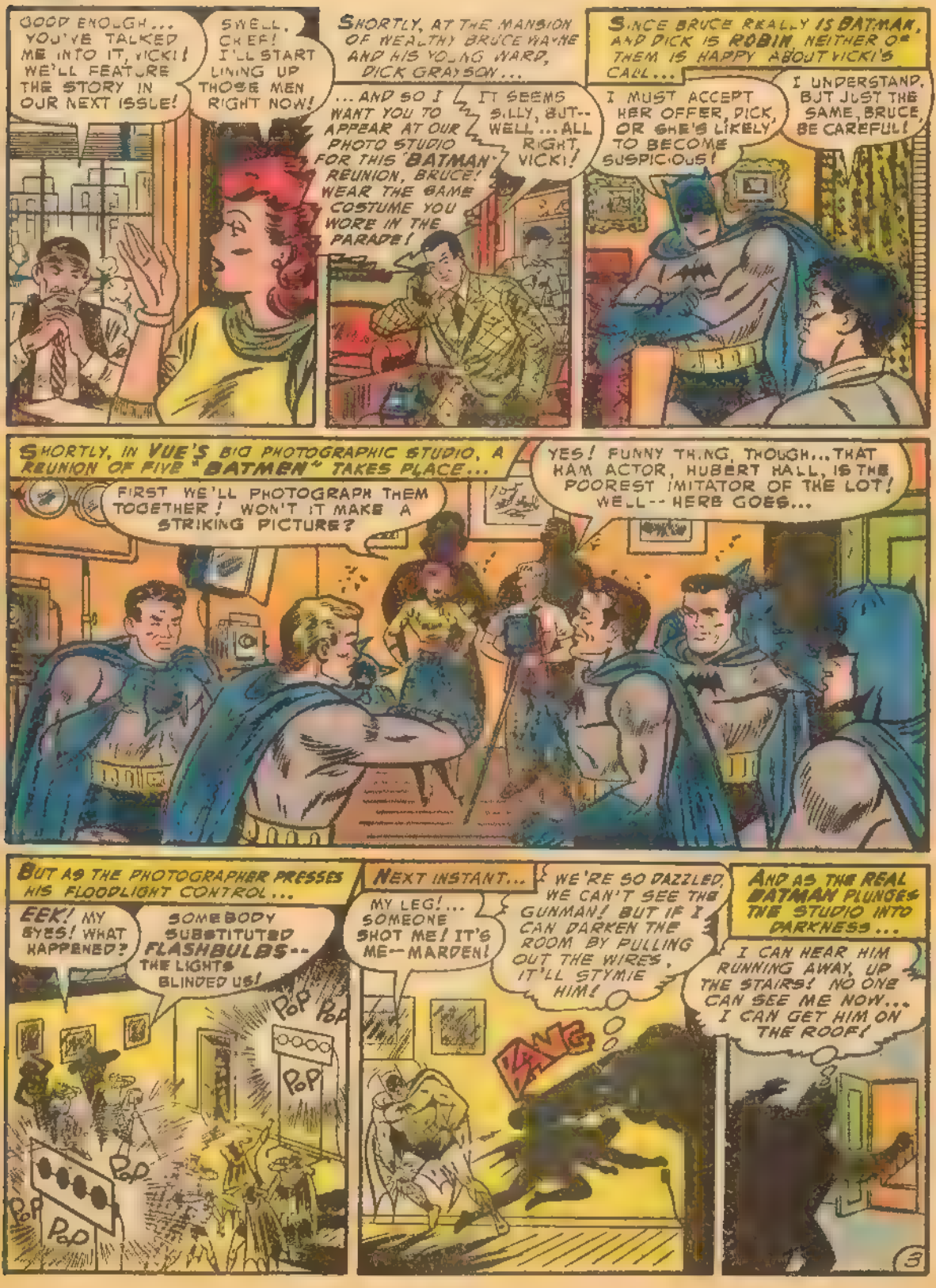
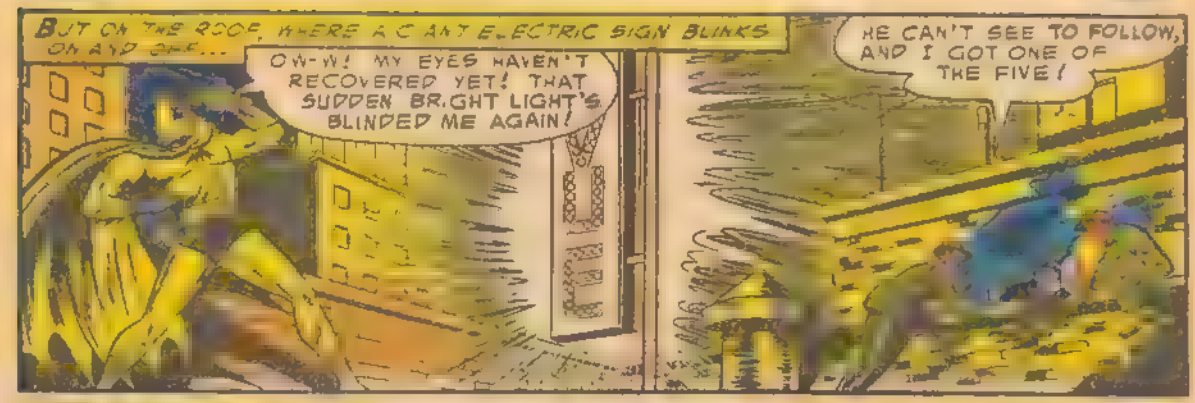
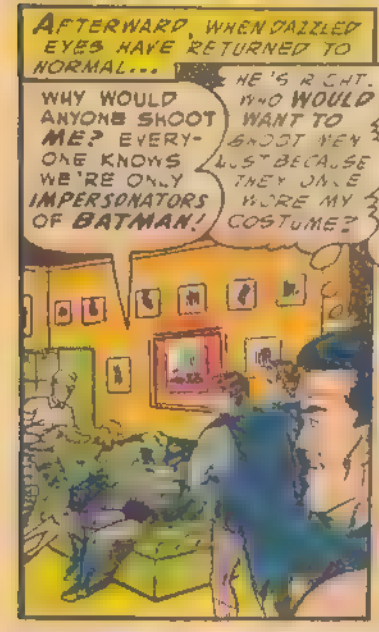
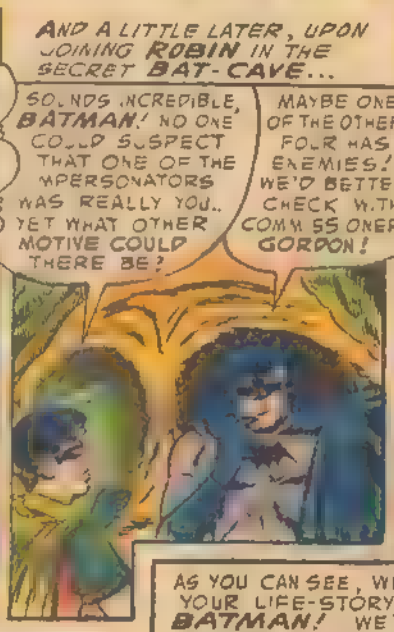
BATMAN
With
THE BOY WONDER
THE VIVID COSTUME OF BATMAN, WHICH IS THE TERROR OF THE UNDERWORLD, IS KNOWN TO EVERYONE... BUT FEW PEOPLE KNOW THAT OTHERS BESIDES BATMAN HAVE, FOR GOOD REASONS, WORN THE BAT-COSTUME! AND WHEN A SINISTER FATE STRIKES AT THOSE OTHERS, ONE BY ONE, THE GRIM GARB OF BATMAN BECOMES ... "THE COSTUME OF DOOM!"

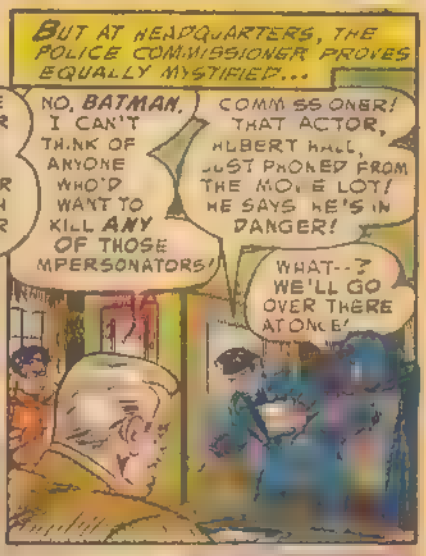
IN THE OFFICE OF VUE MAGAZINE ONE MORNING C.R. PHOTOGRAPHER VICK DALE COMES UP WITH A SENSATIONAL IDEA...
WHAT A PICTURE STORY IT'LL MAKE, CHIEF! ... A REUNION OF ALL THE MEN WHO HAVE LEGALLY IMPERSONATED BATMAN!
HMM... BATMAN IS ALWAYS NEWS, VICK!--BUT WHO WOULD YOUR IMPERSONATORS BE?
"WELL--FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WAS POLICEMAN JERRY MILLER, WHO TOOK BATMAN'S PLACE ON A TV SHOW, SO THAT BATMAN COULD CATCH SOME CROOKS OFF GUARD...
THANKS, JERRY! I'LL EXPLAIN NOW TO THE AUDIENCE WHY I HAD YOU GIVE MY TALK FOR ME!
STUDIO A
"THEN THERE'S FARLEY MARDEN, THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S MODEL, WHO'S POSED FOR MANY MAGAZINE ARTICLES ABOUT BATMAN."
ALL READY FOR THE NEXT SHOT, MARDEN!
"AND VERREAL, THE CIRCUS ACROBAT, WHO TOOK BATMAN'S PLACE WHEN HE WAS WOUNDED AND COULDN'T APPEAR AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL..."
AND THIS IS HOW BATMAN DOES HIS ROPE-SWING!
"EVEN NOW, A NEW ACTOR, NAMED HERBERT HALL, IS REHEARSING FOR A MOVIE ABOUT BATMAN..."
HALL'S A TERRIBLE ACTOR, MR. WELDON!
I KNOW... BUT HE DOES BATMAN'S STUNTS PRETTY WELL, AND HE BEARS A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO BATMAN-- SO WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE ON HIM!
"AND THERE WAS ONE OTHER... THAT SOCIETY PLAYBOY, BRUCE WAYNE!"
THANKS FOR POSING AS BATMAN IN OUR CHARITY PARADE, BRUCE! WE ASKED YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ATHLETIC TYPE!
GLAD TO HELP YOU OUT, MRS. BARTLEY!
BATMAN ABOUT TO GIVE
MARDEN

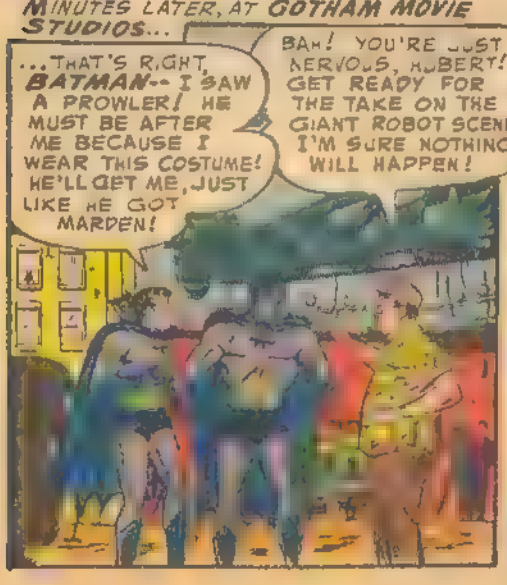

GOOD ENOUGH... YOU'VE TALKED ME INTO IT, VICKI! WE'LL FEATURE THE STORY IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!
SWELL, CHIEF! I'LL START LINING UP THOSE MEN RIGHT NOW!
SHORTLY, AT THE MANSION OF WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
...AND SO I WANT YOU TO APPEAR AT OUR PHOTO STUDIO FOR THIS "BATMAN" REUNION, BRUCE! WEAR THE SAME COSTUME YOU WORE IN THE PARADE!
IT SEEMS SILLY, BUT-- WELL... ALL RIGHT, VICKI!
SINCE BRUCE REALLY IS BATMAN, AND DICK IS ROBIN, NEITHER OF THEM IS HAPPY ABOUT VICKI'S CALL...
I MUST ACCEPT HER OFFER, DICK, OR SHE'S LIKELY TO BECOME SUSPICIOUS!
I UNDERSTAND, BUT JUST THE SAME, BRUCE, BE CAREFUL!
SHORTLY, IN VUE'S BIG PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO, A REUNION OF FIVE "BATMEN" TAKES PLACE...
FIRST WE'LL PHOTOGRAPH THEM TOGETHER! WON'T IT MAKE A STRIKING PICTURE?
YES! FUNNY THING, THOUGH... THAT HAM ACTOR, HUBERT HALL, IS THE POOREST IMITATOR OF THE LOT! WELL-- HERB GOES...
BUT AS THE PHOTOGRAPHER PRESSES HIS FLOODLIGHT CONTROL...
EEK! MY EYES! WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEBODY SUBSTITUTED FLASHBULBS-- THE LIGHTS BLINDED US!
POP
NEXT INSTANT...
MY LEG!... SOMEONE SHOT ME! IT'S ME--MARDEN!
WE'RE SO DAZZLED, WE CAN'T SEE THE GUNMAN! BUT IF I CAN DARKEN THE ROOM BY PULLING OUT THE WIRES, IT'LL STYMIE HIM!
BANG
AND AS THE REAL BATMAN PLUNGES THE STUDIO INTO DARKNESS...
I CAN HEAR HIM RUNNING AWAY, UP THE STAIRS! NO ONE CAN SEE ME NOW... I CAN GET HIM ON THE ROOF!
3

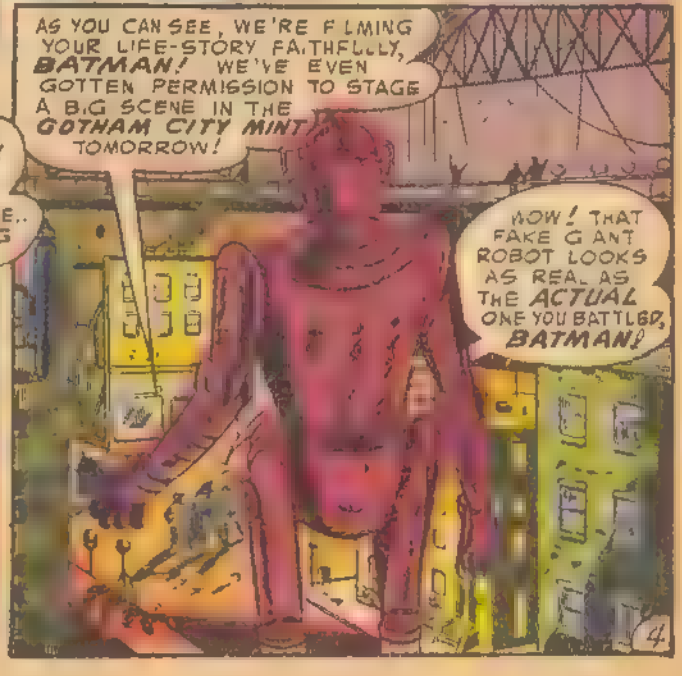

BUT ON THE ROOF, WHERE A GIANT ELECTRIC SIGN BLINKS ON AND OFF...
OW-W! MY EYES HAVEN'T RECOVERED YET! THAT SUDDEN BRIGHT LIGHT'S BLINDED ME AGAIN!
HE CAN'T SEE TO FOLLOW, AND I GOT ONE OF THE FIVE!


AFTERWARD, WHEN DAZZLED EYES HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL...
WHY WOULD ANYONE SHOOT ME? EVERYONE KNOWS WE'RE ONLY IMPERSONATORS OF BATMAN!
HE'S RIGHT. WHO WOULD WANT TO SHOOT HIM JUST BECAUSE THEY SAW MORE MY COSTUME?


AND A LITTLE LATER, UPON JOINING ROBIN IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE...
SOUNDS INCREDIBLE, BATMAN! NO ONE COULD SUSPECT THAT ONE OF THE IMPERSONATORS WAS REALLY YOU.. YET WHAT OTHER MOTIVE COULD THERE BE?
MAYBE ONE OF THE OTHER FOUR HAS ENEMIES! WE'D BETTER CHECK WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON!


BUT AT HEADQUARTERS, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER PROVES EQUALLY MYSTIFIED...
NO, BATMAN, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE WHO'D WANT TO KILL ANY OF THOSE IMPERSONATORS!
COMMISSIONER! THAT ACTOR, HUBERT HALL, JUST PHONED FROM THE MOVIE LOT! HE SAYS HE'S IN DANGER!
WHAT--? WE'LL GO OVER THERE AT ONCE!


MINUTES LATER, AT GOTHAM MOVIE STUDIOS...
...THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN-- I SAW A PROWLER! HE MUST BE AFTER ME BECAUSE I WEAR THIS COSTUME! HE'LL GET ME, JUST LIKE HE GOT MARDEN!
BAH! YOU'RE JUST NERVOUS, HUBERT! GET READY FOR THE TAKE ON THE GIANT ROBOT SCENE.. I'M SURE NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!


AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE FILMING YOUR LIFE-STORY FAITHFULLY, BATMAN! WE'VE EVEN GOTTEN PERMISSION TO STAGE A BIG SCENE IN THE GOTHAM CITY MINT TOMORROW!
WOW! THAT FAKE GIANT ROBOT LOOKS AS REAL AS THE ACTUAL ONE YOU BATTLED, BATMAN!

PRESENTLY, AS ACTOR PROPS AND CAMERAS RE-CREATE ONE OF BATMAN'S SENSATIONAL CASES

THAT'S IT SWING DOWN AND DROP IN FRONT OF THE ROBOT, HALL I'LL ONLY TAKE A FEW STEPS! AND YOU'D BETTER ACT MORE LIVELY, OR WE'LL HIRE A DIFFERENT ACTOR! SILENCE, EVERYBODY... ACTION... CAMERA...

BUT SUDDENLY...

HELP! SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE ROBOT'S CONTROLS! IT'S NOT STOPPING AS IT SHOULD!

GREAT SCOTT! IT'LL TEAR THROUGH THE WHOLE STUDIO!

QUICK, ROBIN -- THOSE CHAINS CAN STOP IT!

NOW -- SNUB YOUR END AROUND THAT GIRDER!

HURRY, BATMAN, OR I'LL STEP RIGHT ON YOU!

THERE -- THAT TRIPPED IT! NOW TO CUT ITS CONTROLS!

WHEW! LUCKY FOR ME I DIDN'T DROP IN FRONT OF IT, OR I'D HAVE BEEN CRUSHED TO DEATH!

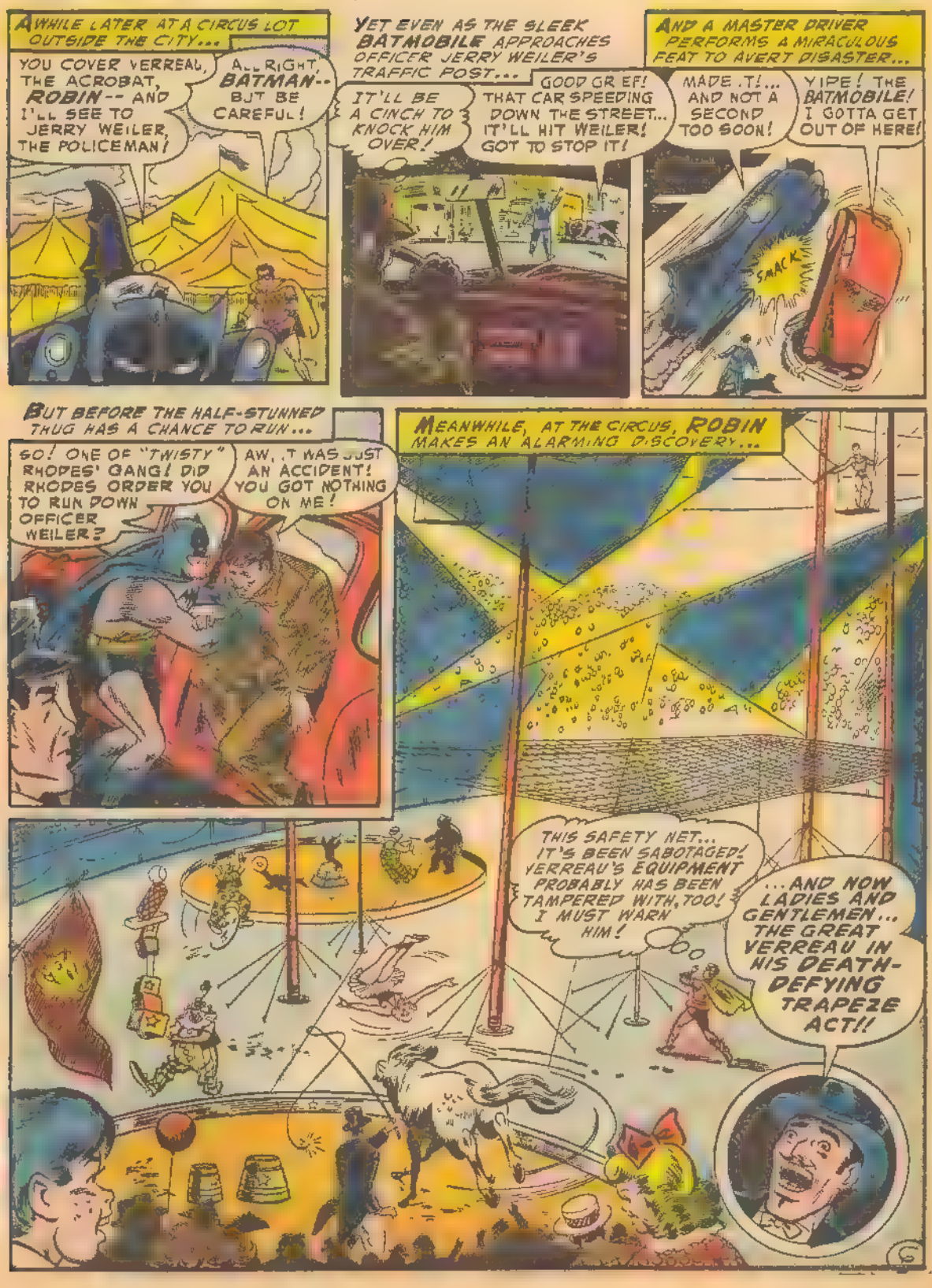
YOU SEE? SOMEONE TAMPERED WITH THE ROBOT-CONTROLS IN ORDER TO KILL ME!

RIDICULOUS! IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT! WE'LL FINISH THE SCENE, AND THEN PREPARE FOR THE BIG MINT SEQUENCE TOMORROW! QUIT WHIMPERING AND TRY TO ACT!

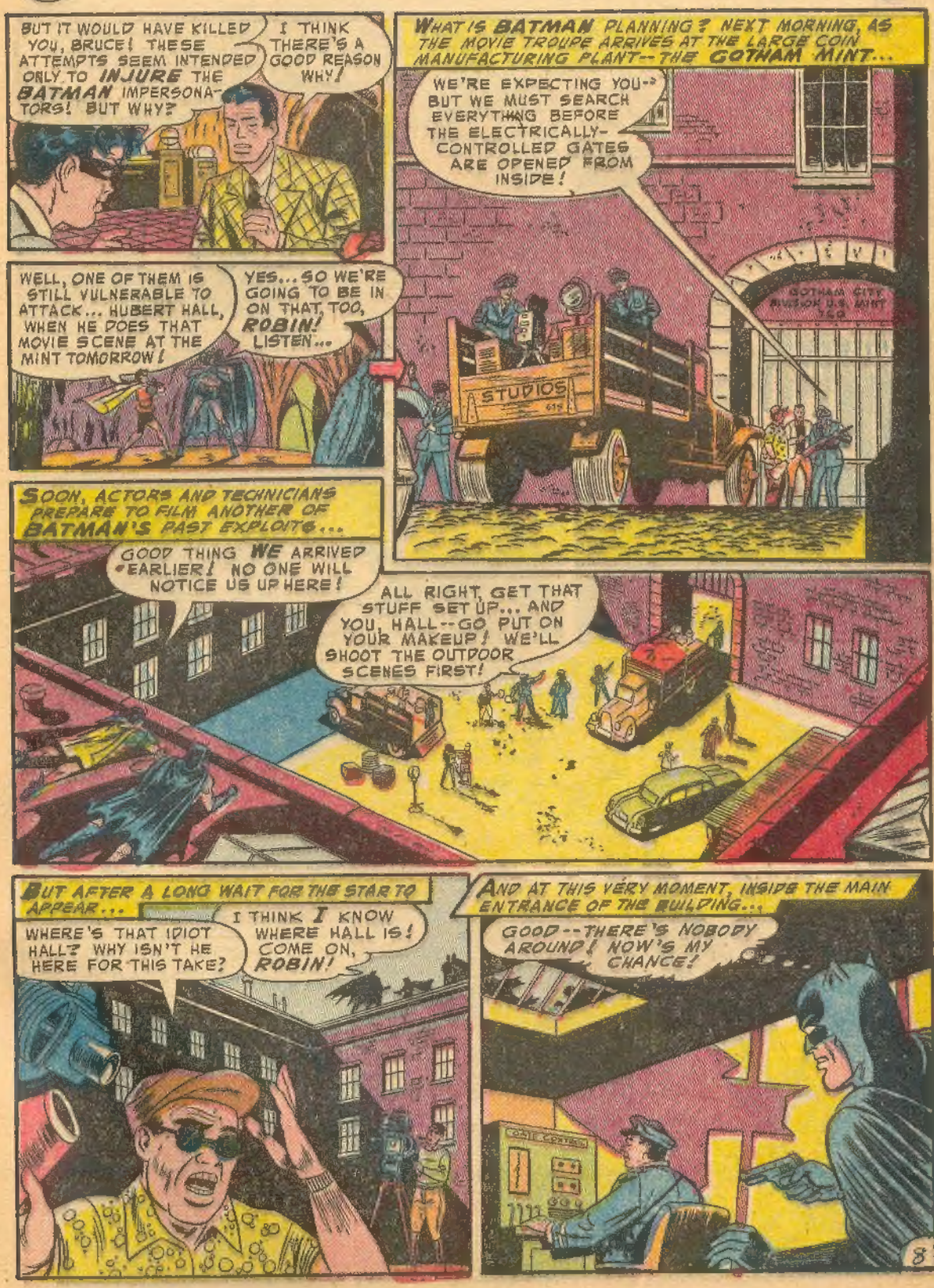
THUS, IT'S A SOMBER DUO WHO LEAVE THE MOVIE LOT WHEN THE SCENE IS SAFELY FINISHED...

IT'S AS THOUGH DANGER AND DEATH WERE STRIKING AT EVERY WEARER OF YOUR COSTUME, BATMAN! BUT WHY?... WHY?

I HAVE MY OWN THEORY -- AND IF I'M RIGHT, THE OTHER "BATMEN" ARE IN REAL DANGER! WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT THEM!


A WHILE LATER AT A CIRCUS LOT OUTSIDE THE CITY...
YOU COVER VERREAU, THE ACROBAT, ROBIN -- AND I'LL SEE TO JERRY WEILER, THE POLICEMAN!
ALL RIGHT, BATMAN-- BUT BE CAREFUL!
YET EVEN AS THE SLEEK BATMOBILE APPROACHES OFFICER JERRY WEILER'S TRAFFIC POST...
IT'LL BE A CINCH TO KNOCK HIM OVER!
GOOD GR EF! THAT CAR SPEEDING DOWN THE STREET... IT'LL HIT WEILER! GOT TO STOP IT!
AND A MASTER DRIVER PERFORMS A MIRACULOUS FEAT TO AVERT DISASTER...
MADE .T!... AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!
YIPE! THE BATMOBILE! I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
SMACK
BUT BEFORE THE HALF-STUNNED THUG HAS A CHANCE TO RUN...
SO! ONE OF "TWISTY" RHODES' GANG! DID RHODES ORDER YOU TO RUN DOWN OFFICER WEILER?
AW, .T WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT! YOU GOT NOTHING ON ME!
MEANWHILE, AT THE CIRCUS, ROBIN MAKES AN ALARMING DISCOVERY...
THIS SAFETY NET... IT'S BEEN SABOTAGED! VERREAU'S EQUIPMENT PROBABLY HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH, TOO! I MUST WARN HIM!
...AND NOW LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THE GREAT VERREAU IN HIS DEATH-DEFYING TRAPEZE ACT!!

BUT AS THE BOY WONDER, ONCE A CIRCUS ACROBAT HIMSELF, CLIMBS TO THE RESCUE...
HELP! THE ROPE IS BREAKING--I'LL FALL!
TOO LATE! I'VE GOT TO CATCH HIM IN MID-AIR!
SNAP
ROBIN! THANK GOODNESS! YOU'VE SAVED ME FROM SERIOUS INJURY!
SOMEBODY MADE SURE THIS WOULD HAPPEN! YOU'D BETTER NOT DO THE REST OF YOUR ACT TODAY!
LATER, BACK IN THE BAT-CAVE...
I ASKED COMMISSIONER GORDON TO TAKE WEILER OFF DUTY TEMPORARILY--SO HE AND VERREAU SHOULD BOTH BE SAFE ENOUGH NOW!
BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO HARM THEM, AND--AND... BATMAN! DO YOU REALIZE THAT BRUCE WAYNE MAY BE ATTACKED, TOO?
YES--AND IF THAT HAPPENS, IT'LL GO FAR TO PROVE MY THEORY!
THEORY OR NO THEORY, NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU IF I CAN HELP IT!
AND UPON RETURNING TO THE WAYNE MANSION...
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS IN EITHER THE HOUSE OR GROUNDS!
LOOK, BRUCE--A PACKAGE CAME FOR YOU! IT MUST BE THOSE SKATES YOU ORDERED FOR ME!
MAY I OPEN IT?
NO, WAIT! THIS MAY BE IT, DICK! WE'LL OPEN THE PACKAGE IN THE LABORATORY!
AND SURE ENOUGH,..USING THE SAFEGUARDS OF THE BAT-CAVE'S LABORATORY, SKILLFUL HANDS UNMASK A HIDDEN PERIL...
VERY CLEVER! A PRESSURE DEVICE THAT WOULD HAVE SPRAYED ACID INTO MY FACE AS SOON AS I TOOK THE LID OFF!
WHY--WHY, THAT WOULD HAVE SCARRED YOU FOR LIFE!


BUT IT WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU, BRUCE! THESE ATTEMPTS SEEM INTENDED ONLY TO INJURE THE BATMAN IMPERSONATORS! BUT WHY?
I THINK THERE'S A GOOD REASON WHY!
WELL, ONE OF THEM IS STILL VULNERABLE TO ATTACK... HUBERT HALL, WHEN HE DOES THAT MOVIE SCENE AT THE MINT TOMORROW!
YES... SO WE'RE GOING TO BE IN ON THAT, TOO, ROBIN! LISTEN...
WHAT IS BATMAN PLANNING? NEXT MORNING, AS THE MOVIE TROUPE ARRIVES AT THE LARGE COIN MANUFACTURING PLANT--THE GOTHAM MINT...
WE'RE EXPECTING YOU--> BUT WE MUST SEARCH EVERYTHING BEFORE THE ELECTRICALLY-CONTROLLED GATES ARE OPENED FROM INSIDE!
STUDIOS
SOON, ACTORS AND TECHNICIANS PREPARE TO FILM ANOTHER OF BATMAN'S PAST EXPLOITS...
GOOD THING WE ARRIVED EARLIER! NO ONE WILL NOTICE US UP HERE!
ALL RIGHT, GET THAT STUFF SET UP... AND YOU, HALL--GO PUT ON YOUR MAKEUP! WE'LL SHOOT THE OUTDOOR SCENES FIRST!
BUT AFTER A LONG WAIT FOR THE STAR TO APPEAR...
WHERE'S THAT IDIOT HALL? WHY ISN'T HE HERE FOR THIS TAKE?
I THINK I KNOW WHERE HALL IS! COME ON, ROBIN!
AND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, INSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING...
GOOD--THERE'S NOBODY AROUND! NOW'S MY CHANCE!

ABRUPTLY...
IT'S HALL!... AND HE WAS GOING TO OPEN THE GATE! YOUR THEORY WAS RIGHT, BATMAN!
YES -- HE'S WORKING WITH CROOKS OUTSIDE -- UNDOUBTEDLY "TWISTY" RHODES' MOB! HE GOT HIS MOVIE-PART SO HE COULD HELP THEM IN THIS JOB!
THANKS, BATMAN! IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED HIM, HE WOULD'VE... WHY, BATMAN! NOW YOU'RE OPENING THE GATES!
RIGHT -- SO THAT ROBIN AND I CAN GRAB HALL'S CONFEDERATES, TOO! YOU WATCH HALL!
GATE CONTROL
AND AS THE GATES OPEN...
YES, THERE COMES "TWISTY" RHODES -- JUST AS I EXPECTED!
COME ON, RHODES -- I CAN LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE BULLION!
GOOD WORK, HALL! GET A MOVE ON, YOU MUGS!
THERE'S THE BULLION-ROOM! GRAB IT, BOYS!
AND HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU... PENNIES FROM HEAVEN!
YOW! WHAT HAPPENED? AN AVALANCHE?
IT'S THAT ROBIN BRAT! I'LL GET HIM!
WAIT, "TWISTY"! WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A BEAUTIFUL SILVER BRACELET FIRST?
WHAT -- ? HALL, YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
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SECONDS LATER, AS GUARDS COME RUSHING IN...
THEY WERE TRYING TO STEAL THE BULLION!
YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER, HALL! I'LL TELL THEM HOW YOU WERE IN ON IT WITH US, RIGHT FROM THE START!
HALL TRAINED UP AS "BATMAN" TO GET THE MOVIE ROLE, SO THAT WHEN THEY MADE THIS MINT SCENE, HE'D LET US IN HERE! BUT HE WAS SO BAD AN ACTOR, THEY WERE GONNA REPLACE HIM WITH ANOTHER OF THE IMPERSONATORS!
AND TO PREVENT THAT, THE OTHER "BATMEN" HAD TO BE DISABLED! IT WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE MOTIVE!
JUST THEN...
HALL! THEN THAT'S THE REAL BATMAN THERE!
YES-- AND HE TRICKED YOU INTO SQUEALING ON ME, YOU FOOL! BUT I'LL PAY YOU BACK... I'LL TESTIFY THAT YOU CARRIED OUT THE ATTACKS ON THE IMPERSONATORS!
THAT'S ALL THE EVIDENCE WE'LL NEED... TAKE 'EM AWAY!
ONLY ONE THING, BATMAN... WHAT MADE YOU FIRST SUSPECT ME?
THAT FAKED ATTACK ON YOU! SINCE YOU KNEW BEFOREHAND THAT THE ROBOT WASN'T GOING TO STOP, YOU DIDN'T JUMP AS YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO! I'M AFRAID YOU'RE A BAD ACTOR, HALL-- IN BOTH SENSES OF THE WORD!
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The End

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